

CLAIMS

I claim:

- 1 1. A locator device, comprising:
2 at least one module comprising at least one chamber, wherein said at least one module is
3 constructed of inherently buoyant materials;
4 fastener means for connecting said at least one module to a structure;
5 at least one computer contained in said at least one chamber;
6 a source for transmitting a communication signal when said structure becomes
7 submerged in a body of water, operably coupled to said at least one computer;
8 at least one power source operably coupled to said at least one computer and said means
9 for transmitting a signal.
- 1 2. The locator device of claim 1, wherein said fastener means comprises a tether that pays
2 out and allows said at least one module to ascend to the water surface when said structure
3 becomes submerged in a body of water.
- 1 3. The locator device of claim 1, wherein said fastener means comprises an optical link
2 between said at least one module and said structure.
- 1 4. The locator device of claim 1, wherein said fastener means comprises an acoustic link
2 between said at least one module and said structure.

1 5. The locator device of claim 1 further comprising:

2 a buoyancy means operably coupled to said at least one module.

1 6. The locator device of claim 5 wherein said buoyancy means comprises at least one

2 removable weight operably coupled to said at least one module.

1 7. The locator device of claim 5 wherein said buoyancy means comprises at least one

2 reversible weight operably coupled to said at least one module, wherein said reversible weight

3 comprises a device with at least one chamber that can be purged of or filled with fluid.

1 8. The locator device of claim 1 further comprising a propulsion system operably coupled to

2 said at least one module.

1 9. The locator device of claim 8 wherein said propulsion system comprises a propeller and

2 steering fins.

1 10. The locator device of claim 1 further comprising:

2 a floatation device operably coupled to said at least one module, wherein said floatation

3 device is deployed when said at least one module approaches or breaks the surface of said body

4 of water.

1 11. The locator device of claim 1 further comprising:

2 an imager for creating video data signals, wherein said video data signals are coupled to
3 said at least one computer.

1 12. The locator device of claim 1 further comprising:

2 a communications means between modules, between said at least one module and said
3 structure, and/or between said at least one module and a search and/or recovery unit.

1 13. A locator device, comprising:

2 a module, said module being constructed of inherently buoyant materials;
3 a tether connecting said module to a structure, wherein said tether pays out and allows
4 said module to ascend to the water surface when said structure becomes submerged in a body of
5 water;

6 a communication device contained in a chamber within said module, wherein said
7 communication device transmits a communication signal when said module breaks the water
8 surface when said structure becomes submerged in a body of water.

1 14. A locator device for submerged structures comprising:

2 a first module, said first module being constructed of inherently buoyant materials;
3 a second module, said second module being constructed of inherently buoyant materials;
4 a first tether connecting said first module to a structure;
5 a second tether connecting said second module to said structure, wherein said second
6 tether pays out and allows said second module to ascend to the surface when said structure
7 becomes submerged in a body of water;

8 a first computer contained in a chamber within said first module;
9 a source for transmitting a communication signal when said structure becomes
10 submerged in a body of water, operably coupled to said first computer;
11 a first power source operably coupled to said first computer and said source;
12 a first transducer for communicating between said first and second modules, operably
13 coupled to said first computer and said first power source;
14 a second computer contained in a chamber within said second module operably coupled
15 to a second power source;
16 a second transducer for communicating between said first and second modules, operably
17 coupled to said second computer and second power source.